caution and flexibility in regard to the forex market. They will continue to monitor closely, as in the past, the developments in the financial markets at home and abroad, and carefully coordinate its market operations with appropriate monetary, regulatory and other measures as considered necessary from time to time.

(c) The changes in interest rates are not expected to affect the interest of common depositors since they are consistent with the decline in inflation that has been taking place.

Flying of IA flights by fatigued pilots

*132. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fatigued and strained pilots are being forced to fly the Indian Airlines flights thereby endangering the safety of passengers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to check such practices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requires that the State of the operator establish regulations specifying the limitations applicable to the flight time and flight duty periods for Flying Crew members. These regulations also make provision for adequate rest periods and shall be such as to ensure that fatigue occurring either in flight or successive flight or accumulated over a period of time due to this and other tasks, does not endanger flight safety. Accordingly, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down the Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) as also for rest periods, and these are binding on all Airlines/Operators in the country. The Pilots of Indian Airlines are governed by FDTL agreed through Memorandum of Settlements, which are in fact lower than the mandatory limitations prescribed by the DGCA.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.